

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 SSM-03 /109 W

-----100016 141205Z /14

P R 140935Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7653

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 1193

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PROG, UN, OAU, ET, SO

SUBJ: OAU OFFICIAL ON PEACE EFFORTS IN HORN OF AFRICA

SUMMARY: LOCAL NIGERIAN AMB STILL ATTEMPTING TO  
PERSUADE ETHIOPIA TO GO TO LAGOS FOR OAU GOOD OFFICES  
COMMITTEE MEETING BEFORE END OF MARCH, BUT LIKELIHOOD  
DOUBTFUL. OAU ASST. SECGEN ONU SEES SOME MERIT IN U.S.  
DRAFT UNSC RESOLUTION CALLING FOR CEASEFIRE AND STATION-  
ING OBSERVERS IN OGADEN, BUT BELIEVES ETHIOPIAN ACQUIES-  
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CENCE ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS OF INITIATIVE. OBSERVER FORCE,  
IF AGREED TO, SHOULD BE DRAWN FROM AFRICAN COUNTRIES.  
ONU BELIEVES MANY OAU MEMBERS WOULD SUPPORT ETHIOPIAN  
CALL FOR SOMALI ELIMINATION OF IRREDENTIST CLAIMS FROM  
ITS OWN CONSTITUTUION, AND THINKS U.S. SHOULD PRESS SOMALIS  
FOR CONCESSIONS TO THIS END. ONU ALSO ADVOCATES CLOSER  
US DIALOGUE WITH USSR AND ETHIOPIAN ON CEASEFIRE AND

UNSC INITIATIVE. HE BELIEVES ETHIOPIANS WILL DROP DEMAND FOR REPARATIONS FROM SOMALIS, ONCE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN EFFORT FOR OGADEN GETS UNDERWAY. END SUMMARY.

1. OAU ASST. SECGEN PETER ONU CONFIRMED TO POLCOUNS MAR 13 THAT ETHIOPIA HAS SOUGHT POSTPONEMENT OF LAGOS OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE MEETING UNTIL EARLY APRIL. NIGERIANS THINK THIS IS MUCH TOO LATE AND HAVE INSTRUCTED THEIR AMBASSADOR HERE TO WORK ON EPMG TO AGREE TO ANY DATES LATER IN MARCH. EVEN IF ETHIOPIANS COME AROUND, HOWEVER, THAT DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY MEAN THAT MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE, SINCE PLAN IS TO CONVENE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL INITIALLY, WITH HEADS OF STATE JOINING MEETING FOR LATER STAGES, WHICH CREATES OBVIOUS SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES. ONU SAID SOMALIS STAND READY FOR MEETING AND ARE NOT INSISTING ON WSLF PARTICIPATION.

2. ASKED WHETHER OAU IS EXERTING PRESSURE TO BRING ABOUT CEASEFIRE IN HORN, ONU SAID THAT OAU HAS NO REAL MECHANISM FOR DOING SO, OTHER THAN THROUGH RESOLUTIONS AGREED ON DURING MEETINGS OF ITS COMMITTEES, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, OR HEADS OF STATE. GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE WOULD OBVIOUSLY HAVE ADDRESSED THIS ISSUE, BUT IF IT DOES NOT MEET UNTIL APRIL, CEASEFIRE WILL PROBABLY NO LONGER BE ISSUE OF FIRST IMPORTANCE. IN PRINCIPLE, ONU

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SAID, PRESIDENT BONGO COULD CALL FOR CEASEFIRE IN INTERIM, BUT HE WOULD SURELY BE RELUCTANT TO DO SO UNLESS ETHIOPIANS WERE CONVINCED IN ADVANCE OF DESIRABILITY OF CEASEFIRE, WHICH ONU DOUBTED. HE SUGGESTED THAT KENYA MIGHT HAVE MOST INFLUENCE ON ETHIOPIA TO THIS END, AND THAT US SHOULD ALSO BE PRESSING USSR ON CEASEFIRE ISSUE.

3. ONU WAS INITIALLY DUBIOUS ABOUT PROPOSALS FOR EMERGENCY UNSC SESSION TO CALL FOR CEASEFIRE AND STATIONING OF OBSERVERS ON GROUNDS THAT SOVIETS LIKELY TO VETO ANYTHING OTHERS MIGHT PROPOSE THERE. WHEN APPRISED OF BASIC ELEMENTS OF DRAFT SC RESOLUTION TEXT, HOWEVER, HE TERMED RESOLUTION "NOT ALL THAT BAD" AND ONE THAT MIGHT BE WORTH EXPLORING. IN HIS VIEW ETHIOPIAN ATTITUDE WAS CRUCIAL FOR SUCCESS, AND HE URGED THAT TEXT BE BROUGHT TO EPMG ATTENTION QUICKLY TO PREVENT UNPLEASANT SURPRISES. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THERE BE MORE REFERENCES IN TEXT TO "IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OAU," WHICH WOULD HELP TO OVERCOME EXTREME OAU SENSITIVITY TO BEING CUT OUT OF ACTION. THOUGH HE CONTINUED TO DOUBT WHETHER ETHIOPIA WOULD AGREE TO STATIONING OF OBSERVERS, HE SAID ALL AFRICANS WOULD AT LEAST INSIST THAT ONLY AFRICAN OB-

SERVERS BE USED. STILL, HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NON-  
AFRICANS HAD PERFORMED USEFUL SERVICE AS OBSERVERS IN  
HIS OWN COUNTRY OF NIGERIA AT END OF BIAFRA WAR.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7654

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 1193

4. BIGGEST STICKING POINT, IN ONU VIEW, WAS NEW ETHIO-  
PIAN INSISTENCE THAT SOMALIA RENOUNCE ALL CLAIMS TO  
ETHIOPIAN, KENYAN, AND DJIBOUTI TERRITORY AND REWRITE  
ITS CONSTITUTION APPROPRIATELY. SPEAKING PERSONALLY,  
HE FELT ETHIOPIAN DEMAND MADE EXCELLENT SENSE IF INTER-  
NATIONAL INTENTION WAS NOT ONLY TO BRING WAR TO END, BUT  
ALSO TO ELIMINATE SEEDS OF FUTURE WARS IN HORN. HE  
NOTED THAT SOMALIA CONSTITUTION, EVEN THOUGH SUSPENDED,  
COMMITS ANY SOMALI LEADER TO PURSUE SIMILAR IRREDENTIST  
POLICIES IN FUTURE, THEREBY PERPETUATING ISSUE. ONU  
ASKED WHETHER US, WHICH HAD PUT PRESSURE ON SIAD BARRE  
TO WITHDRAW HIS TROOPS FROM OGADEN, OBVIOUSLY WITH SOME  
SUCCESS, WAS NOT IN POSITION TO PRESS HIM INTO FURTHER

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CONCESSIONS ON RENUNCIATION OF CLAIMS ISSUE, PARTICULARLY SINCE WITHDRAWALS HAD APPARENTLY NOT PROVOKED INTERNAL POWER STRUGGLE IN SOMALIA, WHICH MANY HAD FEARED MIGHT LEAD TO SIAD'S DOWNFALL.

5. ASKED WHETHER ETHIOPIA'S LIKELY TO MAKE DIFFICULTIES ON REPARATIONS ISSUE, ONU SAID THIS WAS NON-STARTER IN ANY AFRICAN CONFLICT, SINCE NO OAU MEMBER WAS IN POSITION TO PAY REPARATIONS. HE EXPECTED THAT ONCE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN EFFORT GOT GOING IN OGADEN AND CONTRIBUTIONS STARTED COMING IN, ETHIOPIANS WOULD QUICKLY DROP REPARATIONS QUESTION AND CONCENTRATE INSTEAD ON WHAT WAS ACHIEVABLE.

MATHERON

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014